Telephones in Andhra Pradesh villages

1917. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in the district of Nalgonda of Andhra Pradesh, likely to be provided with telephone facilities during the year 1989-90; and

(b) what is the amount of funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Three villages in the District of Nalgonda of Andhra Pradesh are likely to be provided with telephone facilities during the year 1989-90.

(b) No separate funds are allocated for the purpose. Expenditure is met from the lump sum grant placed at the disposal of the circle.

Expansion of telecommunication services in Orissa

1918. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) what specific steps have been taken so far for the expansion of telecommunication facilities in Orissa during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) the programme drawn up for implementation in the remaining period of the present plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House [*See* Appendix CXCIX, Annexure No. 108].

Facilities to ED employees

1919. SHRI L. K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ED Branch Post Masters are getting less emoluments than some of their subordinates; if so, what steps are being taken to remove this anomaly;

(b) whether Government have granted separate hourly rates to ED Delivery Agents doing postman's job as recommended by the Savoor Committee; if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to grant various advances to ED employees at par with the regular employees; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. In the extra departmental branch post offices, the extra departmental employees have separate functions to perform. While for their functions the extra departmental agents are attached to the Branch Post Office, the controlling Officer of all extra departmental agents is Inspector of Post Offices or Superintendent of Post Offices.

The allowances of the extra departmental employees are fixed on the basis of their workload. As such there is no anomaly in the emoluments of Extra Departmental Branch Post Masters

(b) No, Sir. The recommendations of the Committee on extra departmental system for payment of Pro-rata hourly wages to extra departmental agents has not been accepted by Government. A minimum of 40 points workload has been accepted for ED Branch Post Masters and a minimum of Rs. 240/- p.m. has been ensured to each and every EDA (other than EDBPM) irrespective of the workload. The formulation of pro-rata wages cannot be applied in this system

where emoluments have been fixed in an entirely different working system.

(c) No, Sir. The extra departmental agents are part time employees and they cannot be treated at par with regular departmental employees.

Reinstatement of ED employees

1920. SHRI L. K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of ED employees under put-off duty for more than 4 months as on 31st December, 1988;

(b) what is the number of ED employees under put-off duty for less than 4 months as on 31st December, 1988;

(c) how many ED employees were re-instated after review by the heads of the circles;

(d) whether Government would pay full wages to those ED employees who were found not guilty and were fully exonerated after review/appeal; and

(e) whether Government would consider to reinstate all the ED employees under put-off duty for more than 4 months where the reasons cannot be attributed to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) No, Sir. Extra Departmental employees being part-time employees, having other avocations of life are not entitled to any allowances for the period they do not actually perform their duty as during the put off duty period they are supported by their main source of income.

(e) No, Sir. The EDAs are put off duty where an enquiry into any complaint or allegation of misconduct is pending. However, periodic review of the put off duty cases is done with a view to reduce the period of put off duty and expedite disposal of such cases.

Increase in the prices of Streptomycin

1921. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1404 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st November, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no increase in the weighted average price of streptomycin and the same continues at Rs. 1049 per kg.;

(b) if so, on what basis the prices of formulations have gone up;

(c) what were the prices of formulations of Streptomycin under DPCO, 1979 and what are their present prices; and

(d) what is the percentage increase in prices and on what basis the 2.12 per cent increase in formulation prices was calculated?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d) The price of Streptomycin Sulphate Bulk Drug reckoned for formulations Pricing was Rs. 1027/- per kg. under DPCO 1979. It was, however, revised under the provisions of DPCO 1987 on adhoc basis, pending detailed cost price study by BICP.

In so far as formulations are concerned, the previous leader prices were revised upwards towards the end of 1987 by adjusting MARK-UP/MAPE as required under DPCO 1987. The increase of 2.12 percent referred to in part (d) of the question is the possible increase consequent upon the adhoc revision in the bulk drug price mentioned above. Actually, however, this increase has not yet been notified.